

Message Text

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42

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01

ACDA-05 AID-05 /065 W

----- 036139

R 060915Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY SANAA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5452

INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

CINCEUR

COMIDEASTFOR

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANAA 1069

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, MILI

SUBJECT: REMOVAL OF LAST ABU LUHUM

REF: SANAA 1026; 996 (NOTAL)

1. PROCEEDING USUAL LOW-KEY FASHION PRESIDENT

HAMDY HAS NOW REMOVED THE LAST ABU LUHUM FROM HIS MILITARY COMMAND. (SEE REFTELS) SANAA RADIO LAST NIGHT ANNOUNCED THE NAME OF THE NEW COMMANDER TO THE TAIZ MILITARY DISTRICT REPLACING LT COL DIRHAM ABU LUHUM, COUSIN OF THE TWO ABU LUHUM BROTHERS RECENTLY REMOVED FROM THEIR COMMANDS. (A FEW DAYS AGO THE LOCAL PRESS ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT ALI ABU LUHUM HAS BEEN APPOINTED YEMEN'S AMBASSADOR TO SYRIA.)

2. COMMENT: MOST LOCAL OBSERVERS, BOTH YEMENI AND FOREIGN, ARE

AGREED THAT HAMDY HAD DEMONSTRATED AN IMPRESSIVE DEGREE "OF COURAGE" IN MOVING AGAINST THE ABU LUHUM/ABU SHUWARIB CLIQUE IN THE MILITARY. SOME THOUGHT, HOWEVER, THAT DIRHAM MIGHT HAVE SURVIVED A LITTLE LONGER AS A SIGN OF HAMDY'S USUAL CAUTION AND MODERATION BUT HAMDY OBVIOUSLY DECIDED THAT IF HE WAS TO MOVE, HE SHOULD DO IT NOW. ALL ARE AGREED THAT HAMDY WOULD

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NEVER HAVE TAKEN THESE MOVES HAD HE NOT FELT CONFIDENT OF HIS

SUCCESS BASED ON THE FULL SUPPORT OF THE ARMY. VARIOUS EMBASSY CONTACTS REPORT THAT THESE MOVES HAVE ALSO BEEN ACCEPTED WITH GENUINE APPROVAL BY THE GENERAL POPULATION AND THAT HAMDI IS ENJOYING A HIGH LEVEL OF POPULARITY THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY. (RECENT VISITS BY HAMDI TO THE CITIES OF HODEIDAH AND IBB GENERATED WHAT APPEARED TO BE MUCH SPONTANEOUS AND FERVENT ENTHUSIASM FROM THE CROWDS.)

3. THE QUESTION STILL BEING ASKED HERE IS WHAT THE REACTION OF SHAIKH ABDULLAH AL-AHMAR WILL BE. LATEST REPORTS HAVE HIM SULKING IN HIS HOME VILLAGE OF AL-KHAMR IN THE NORTHERN PART OF THE COUNTRY BUT THESE REPORTS ALSO ADD THAT FORMER PRIME MINISTER AND PROMINENT CONSERVATIVE ABDULLAH AL-HAJRI IS NOW IN THE PROCESS OF "MEDIATING BETWEEN THE TWO". MOST SOURCES HERE BELIEVE THAT EVENTUALLY AHMAR WILL BE BROUGHT AROUND AND NO ONE SEEMS CONCERNED THAT THE SITUATION WILL GET OUT OF HAND.
SCOTES

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